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WORLD OF SPORT  
AIKMAN REDEEMED  
It's all in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

## Hebron deal possible in days - Mordechai

DAVID RUDGE and JON IMMANUEL

AN agreement on Hebron could be reached in the next few days, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai indicated yesterday. "We want to implement our part of the agreement, which rests on our security requirements in Hebron and the needs of the Jewish settlement there and the ability to minimize, as much as possible, the points of conflict," Mordechai said while visiting the North.

"I believe that all the sides will make efforts in the next few days to reach an agreement over the redeployment."

He admitted there is an element of risk in the redeployment but stressed there was also hope and expectation. "There's no absolute security in any place, but the security forces and the IDF will do everything possible to give maximum security in Hebron and everywhere else," he added.

Last night, Mordechai addressed the Likud Knesset faction along with members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza and Jewish community in Hebron. He said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has promised to present an initial agreement to the government and Knesset.

Mordechai warned the settlers against creating an irreparable chasm in Israeli society by opposing the redeployment plans.

Most of the Likud MKs gave the impression that should the agreement provide sufficient security measures, they would not oppose it, but Michael Kleiner (Geshar) said he would vote against redeployment because of his fears for the safety of residents.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat left for Cairo for meetings with (Continued on Page 9)

## Mordechai: Army considers missing soldier Edri as being held hostage

DAVID RUDGE and BILL HUTMAN

MISSING soldier Sharon Edri is considered to be alive and being held against his will, as long as there is no proof otherwise, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday.

However, police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said there is no evidence that Edri was kidnapped, and the investigation is at virtually the same point as it was when he disappeared two months ago.

Mordechai, who was visiting Northern Command headquarters, nevertheless maintained that "our opening position was and remains against his will and we are making every effort to trace his whereabouts. Until we know what's happened to him, this is the working hypothesis of the army and the security services, including the General Security Service."

"The police, for various reasons, thought differently at the start, but I think they are now coming to (Continued on Page 9)



US Secretary of State Warren Christopher is greeted in Cairo yesterday by US Ambassador Edward Walker for the start of the Middle East/North Africa economic conference. (Reuters)

## Cairo economic parley opens today

DAVID HARRIS

SOME 3,500 businessmen, politicians, and civil servants from 92 countries are expected to attend the third Middle East/North Africa economic summit, which opens in Cairo today.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will make the opening speech in what Cairo is now calling an economic conference rather than a summit, because of the exclusion of heads of state and premiers.

The Israeli delegation, comprising 100 businessmen, 50 officials, and 30 journalists, will be led by Foreign Minister David Levy. Other ministers attending are Dan Meridor (finance), Natan Sharansky (industry and trade), Limor Livnat (communications), and Yitzhak Levy (transport).

The three-day event is being held amid tight security, particularly around the Israeli delegation. Initially the Egyptian government requested that each

of the three groupings of Israelis stay in one hotel, however, the Israeli businessmen decided to book individually.

The opening ceremony will be attended by the prime ministers of Egypt and Jordan, outgoing US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Russian Economy Minister Yevgeni Yasin, president of the EU Council of Ministers Dick Spring, and head of the summit's organizing body, the World Economic Forum, Klaus Schwab.

The conference "promises to host more participants from more countries than participated in either Casablanca or Amman," said Schwab.

While there have been repeated political exchanges between Israel and its Arab neighbors ahead of the summit, there is an increasing feeling among Israeli (Continued on Page 9)

## Egypt said to hold Azzam for spying

AZZAM Azzam, the Israeli who went missing in Cairo last Wednesday night, was apprehended by the Egyptians on suspicion of spying for Israel, an Egyptian legal source said last night.

The source said that an Egyptian whom Azzam had recruited for the Mossad was also detained, and that the two are being held in Tura Prison near Cairo, Israel Radio reported. They were remanded yesterday for a further 15 days.

Earlier yesterday, the London-based *Al-Hayat* reported that Azzam was part of a group, including Egyptian citizens, arrested in Cairo on suspicion of having contacts with the Mossad.

There was no official word from the Egyptian authorities about the arrest. In previous cases when Israelis have been detained, the Egyptians have taken pains to make the arrests public.

Meanwhile, further details have emerged about the abduction of Azzam, 35, of Maghar in the Galilee, as he was sitting in a car with another Israeli outside the Baron Hotel in Heliopolis on Wednesday night.

Army Radio reported that Azzam was called by name from a group of some 10 men in civilian clothes, who grabbed him and drove off, followed by another car.

Before they left, the radio said, the other Israeli tried to intervene, but was shoved inside the hotel by some of the men. The abductors were armed and carried walkie-talkies, the report said.

According to the source quoted by the radio, Azzam was recruited by the Mossad after the Netanyahu government was set up in June. He

BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

was offered a huge sum of money and then recruited Egyptian citizens as well, the source said.

In Jerusalem, officials denied knowledge of the case and said more details would probably emerge after Foreign Minister David Levy meets today with Egyptian officials in Cairo.

In Maghar yesterday, villagers were joyful that Azzam had been found but could not believe the charges against him. "We are happy that Azzam is alive and are shocked over the allegations against him. We don't believe that a man like this could do something wrong and we are certain that it is a mistake," one of Azzam's friends said.

At the same time, the overwhelming feeling in the village was relief. "The main thing is that he is alive and was not murdered. Now he must be brought back home to his wife and children," a neighbor said.

A large group of Azzam's relatives demonstrated opposite the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem yesterday, while others left for Cairo to help bring about his release.

Despite official silence on the identity and whereabouts of Azzam, there was a flurry of diplomatic activity in Jerusalem and Cairo yesterday over his disappearance. After speaking with Azzam's brother, Sami, Levy declared: "It is Israel's elementary obligation to care for the welfare of its citizens... It shall be taken up at the highest echelons. We shall not rest until Azzam is returned to Israel safe and well."

The prime minister's adviser on

Druse affairs, Assad Assad, spoke with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, who promised to have details "within 24 hours."

In reply to the family's charge that Azzam had been kidnapped, Bassiouny said that the Egyptian authorities are not in the habit of abducting people from outside their hotel and then having them disappear. He asked Assad to relay a message to the Azzam family that they should not be alarmed, and said he had already sent several communications on the subject to Cairo.

"Everything will soon be okay," he reportedly told Assad.

Charge d'affaires in Cairo Ya'acov Gil has been in touch with President Hosni Mubarak's office, as well as the Egyptian internal affairs minister, with whom Levy is expected to meet today.

Israeli businessmen of Druse origin attending the conference said they would also try to help locate Azzam.

Azzam had been in Cairo for the past six months working as a mechanic at the joint Egyptian-Israeli Tefron textile factory. His brother, Wafa, manager at the same plant, remained in Cairo yesterday and was in touch with local police and the Israeli Embassy.

He denied rumors that his brother is connected with the Mossad and appealed to Levy to find him before attending the conference this morning.

"I am distraught," he said. "I have not slept or eaten for nearly a week. I have not shaven and will not rest until I know Azzam is alive and well."

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## Bereaved father: Police responsible for accident that claimed two lives

HAIM SHAPIRO

AN accident that claimed the life of an 18-year-old girl and a 39-year-old man could have been avoided had the police acted promptly to remove the carcass of a donkey from the road.

Hisgai Eliczer, of Alfei Menashe, whose daughter Ma'ayan was killed, along with Ephraim Bleifeld, of Kedumim, made this charge yesterday on Israel Radio's popular *It's All Talk* program.

Ma'ayan was killed last Wednesday night when she swerved to avoid a dead donkey on the road and crashed head on into a car driven by Bleifeld. The young man in the car with Ma'ayan and Bleifeld's wife were injured.

Eliczer said that 90 minutes before the accident, a Ginoi Shomron resident had come to a parent's meeting, said there was a dead donkey on the road, and that he had reported it to the authorities. Others also said that they had driven around the donkey, he said.

"The accident happened because the police simply didn't pay attention to human life," Eliczer said. He added that the fact that none of those who had seen the carcass had bothered to move it off the road says something about Israeli society.

when the tragedy occurred. He added that he was sorry that other drivers had seen the carcass, but none had stopped to remove it.

Goldberg added that the police are not responsible for removing such hazards, but do act on every report. Eliczer had charged that the accident took place because of a conflict over turf, with various bodies each saying that it was not their job to remove the donkey from the road.

"What if it had been a bus full of children?" he asked, saying that he will not be able to rest until he does something to prevent more such tragedies.

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# Germany denies report Ron Arad to be freed

MISSING IAF navigator Ron Arad, in a German-brokered deal, is about to be released in exchange for Lebanese prisoners held by Israel, including Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani, according to a report from Beirut. The report in *An-Nahar*, Lebanon's leading independent newspaper, said the deal was being negotiated by Bernd Schmidbauer, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top intelligence adviser. *An-Nahar* quoted unnamed security sources as saying Schmidbauer is to return to Beirut soon to continue the negotiations for a prisoner swap. Reporting from the Hizbullah

**ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**  
and news agencies  
stronghold of Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley, the paper said a "large number" of Lebanese prisoners would be freed in return for Arad. Defense Ministry officials would only say that Israel is continuing to work for Arad's release. Reacting to the report, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's media adviser Avi Benyahu said that Israel believes that Arad is alive and being held prisoner. "The Ministry of Defense and the State of Israel are continuing their efforts to bring about Arad's release," Benyahu said.

Reports of an imminent release often surface whenever Schmidbauer visits the region. Earlier this year, Hizbullah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said his organization would not withhold any information it had on Arad and promised Germany to help locate him in exchange for Shi'ite prisoners held by Israel. But it has steadily denied having any knowledge of Arad's fate. Schmidbauer met with Nasrallah twice during his visit to Beirut last month, and he reportedly brought to Israel conditions for proceeding with negotiations. He also reportedly brought messages for Dirani and Obeid from their families.



Haredim pray in Hebron yesterday, during a protest against the planned redeployment.

# Bakshi-Doron: Jews could be evacuated from Hebron

"SAVING lives takes precedence over territory," Chief Rabbi Elisha Bakshi-Doron said in Hebron yesterday, asserting that if the defense establishment does not think it possible to protect the city's Jews, then they should be evacuated. At the same time, Bakshi-Doron made it clear that he does not think there is any pressing need for Jews to leave Hebron, since Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has said the IDF can assure their security. Bakshi-Doron made the remarks on a private visit to Hebron for Yom Kippur Katan, a time of special penitential prayers before the beginning of a new Jewish month.

**HERB KEINON and BILL HUTMAN**  
Thousands of worshippers from Kiryat Arba, Hebron, and around the country went to the Machpela Cave in the afternoon for the Yom Kippur Katan prayers and to pray that the IDF redeployment in Hebron be averted. Some Hebron settlement leaders were optimistic the redeployment would not take place. "It still hasn't happened," said community spokesman David Wilder. "I think there is a fairly good chance that the signing won't take place. This defies logic and reality, but I think there is a very good chance." In the meantime, the settlement

continues to furiously lobby all the coalition factions. Yesterday settlement leaders appeared before the Likud faction, and meetings are taking place all the time, Wilder said. Hebron's Jews are "definitely not throwing in the towel." Meanwhile, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani confirmed yesterday that both the Jewish and Palestinian residents of Hebron have illegal weapons caches, which security forces are trying to uncover. "There are those in Hebron, on both the Arab side and Jewish side, who have weapons,"

Kahalani told a Jerusalem press conference. "The Judea and Samaria police district is very active" in trying to find the illegal weapons held by the settlers, Kahalani said. He did not comment on the illegal weapons being held by Palestinians, as this is the army's responsibility. Kiryat Arba and Hebron settlers denied Kahalani's accusation, and Wilder said it is all "part of a campaign being waged to delegitimize Hebron." "If these weapons exist, and the authorities know about them, then let them arrest people. But nobody is being arrested, because it is just a figment of the imagination," Wilder said.

# Hanegbi, Matza to get portfolios today

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday announced the appointments of Tzahi Hanegbi as justice minister and fellow Likud MK Yehoshua Matza as health minister. Hanegbi, appointed health minister upon the Netanyahu government's formation last summer, has been acting justice minister for the past three months, ever since former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman resigned to face charges for obstruction of justice in the Deri case. The new ministers are expected to take the oath of office in the Knesset today. Netanyahu yesterday expressed the hope that Ne'eman would speedily clear his name and return to the government. If this happens, Netanyahu stressed, Hanegbi will have to give the justice portfolio back to Ne'eman and take back health back from Matza, who will go back to being an ordinary MK.



New Health Minister Yehoshua Matza (Isaac Hassel)

Both Hanegbi and Matza reportedly agreed to this precondition. However, it is thought that if Ne'eman is eventually indicted, the case will be very prolonged.

Hanegbi has never concealed his preference for the justice portfolio and Matza is glad to get into the cabinet at all. He was reportedly promised a ministerial appointment by Netanyahu prior to the elections, but the gains the small parties made at the Likud's expense made it impossible for Netanyahu to give him one. This situation was complicated by Netanyahu's intention to have outside professionals in his cabinet. He thus earmarked the Treasury for Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and the Justice Ministry for Ne'eman. Frenkel was edged out by the Likud's Dan Meridor after heavy political pressure. Hanegbi's caretaker appointment was made in the hope that Ne'eman's affairs would clear up quickly. However, because the law prevents a portfolio from remaining unassigned for longer than three months, Netanyahu was forced to reassign portfolios.

# Matza will be a full-time health minister

MK Yehoshua Matza's appointment as health minister depends on Ya'acov Ne'eman's legal fortunes. If Ne'eman returns to the Justice Ministry, then Tzahi Hanegbi will go back to the Health Ministry. But for now Matza isn't complaining. He is happy to get a foot in the cabinet door. This attitude may make him a better health minister than many expect. The Health Ministry is considered one of the least desirable in the government, and is often an unappreciated consolation prize for those who aspired to a choicer post. Matza, however, is used to chores which no one else in the Likud wants. Thus he was sent twice as a sacrificial lamb to run against Teddy Kolkof for the Jerusalem mayoralty, when Kolkof was at his zenith. Matza had no hope of winning, but made his suicide run with zest. These episodes are a key to the man frequently belittled as a lackluster party functionary. Matza is undeniably a functionary who for years headed the Likud stronghold in Jerusalem. That took a lot of hard work and daily dealing with the nitty-grit

## BACKGROUND SARAH HONIG

The Health Ministry for years was run by people who cared more about defense and foreign policy, who harbored ambitions for higher office, or who introduced radical reforms that left the health system reeling. Matza can be counted upon to be the first full-time health minister in many years and to devote all of his attention to his portfolio. Matza, who was born in Jerusalem's Yemin Moshe quarter in 1931, is a 12th-generation sabra, whose ancestors came to Jerusalem via Greece, to which they had fled after their expulsion from Spain in 1492. He speaks fluent Arabic. He joined the Irgun underground at 13 and graduated from high school only after the War of Independence. He studied law for a year but then switched to auditing, a profession he followed until he became Jerusalem's deputy mayor. He worked himself up to a parliamentary seat along the rough road of municipal politics. He

was elected to the Jerusalem City Council in 1966 and stayed on for 20 years, immersing himself in solid administrative tasks, undertaking such projects as beautifying the city and improving its sanitation. He finally made it to the Knesset in 1984 in the lowly 32nd slot on the Likud list. He had since served as coalition whip, chairman of the Interior Committee, and chairman of the Likud secretariat. After Menachem Begin resigned the premiership, Matza became briefly associated with David Levy, but then became one of Binyamin Netanyahu's loyal foot soldiers. With the appointment, Netanyahu will be adding a pragmatist to the cabinet, which will not hurt him in the looming storm over Hebron. Matza's moderately hawkish political history contains fiery clashes with Labor over such issues as redrawing Jerusalem's boundaries, but he also opposed to the push for Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount. Polley toward the Arabs, he has continuously advocated, should be tempered by tolerance and good will.

# Four ex-Kach activists indicted

**HERB KEINON**  
Goldstein murdered 29 Moslems in the Ibrahim Mosque at Hebron's Machpela Cave on Purim 1994. Former Kach activist Itamar Ben-Gvir said the indictments, coming so long after the book was printed, are a transparent attempt by the police to harass former Kach members and other suspected extremists prior to the IDF redeployment in

Hebron. Former Kach spokesman Noam Federman was placed under two months' administrative detention on Sunday, amid reports that a number of other high-profile extremists would soon be picked up as well. Ben-Gvir said the book, *Baruch Hagever*, has sold more than 6,000 copies, and includes an article written by alleged GSS agent-provocateur Avishai Raviv.

Federman, former spokesman of the outlawed Kach movement, was given two months' administrative detention on Sunday and was incarcerated in Ashmoret Prison. Administrative detainees are subject to different rules than regular prisoners and last night the Prisons Service issued a list of such regulations. Detainees are segregated from other prisoners. However, they are permitted to wear their own clothing and do not have to dress in prison uniform. Their food is the same as that of prison guards and they have the right to a two-hour exercise period in the yard and may purchase provisions and toiletries in the prison canteen. Administrative detainees are allowed to keep one holy book, and are given access to newspapers and other books at the discretion of the prison warden.

# Federman punished for misbehavior in jail

**RAINE MARCUS**  
NOAM Federman, now under administrative detention, was banned from using the phone for two weeks by the Prisons Service yesterday, after he threatened to go on hunger strike, refused to undergo basic medical examinations, and refused to participate in a routine head count. Federman, former spokesman of the outlawed Kach movement, was given two months' administrative detention on Sunday and was incarcerated in Ashmoret Prison. Administrative detainees are subject to different rules than regular prisoners and last night the Prisons Service issued a list of such regulations. Detainees are segregated from other prisoners. However, they are permitted to wear their own clothing and do not have to dress in prison uniform. Their food is the same as that of prison guards and they have the right to a two-hour exercise period in the yard and may purchase provisions and toiletries in the prison canteen. Administrative detainees are allowed to keep one holy book, and are given access to newspapers and other books at the discretion of the prison warden.

# More fighting in security zone

**DAVID RUDGE**  
FIGHTING continued in south Lebanon yesterday, with reports of Hizbullah firing at the IDF's Karkum position in the western sector of the security zone for the third day running. Reports from Lebanon said Hizbullah gunmen fired over a dozen mortar rounds at the outpost. There were no reports of casualties and IDF gunners returned fire. Earlier in the day, a roadside bomb was detonated alongside a South Lebanese Army patrol near Beit Yahom in the zone's western sector, without causing casualties or damage. One soldier was killed and six others wounded, two seriously and the rest lightly, in attacks on two tanks in the Karkum region on Saturday and Sunday. Three of the wounded are still

in Haifa's Ramham hospital. Deputy director Dr. Zvi Ben-Isai said there had been an improvement in the condition of the seriously wounded soldier. "Another of the wounded from that incident has been transferred to the orthopedic department and his condition is good and one was sent home," Ben-Isai said. "The condition of the soldier who was admitted on Saturday with neck injuries remains serious and he is still detained in the intensive care unit of the neurosurgery department." Another soldier is reported to be making satisfactory progress in Nabariya Hospital. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, accompanied by

Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, visited Northern Command headquarters yesterday and was briefed about the latest incidents. Mordechai also met with members of the forum of Heads of Settlements who charged that government promises to help the region after Operation Grapes of Wrath had not been fulfilled. Meanwhile, Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah has revealed that 1,145 members of the organization have died in operations since the first suicide bomb attack against IDF troops in Tyre on November 11 1983. Nasrallah said Hizbullah has carried out 825 attacks in the past 12 months, most of them since Operation Grapes of Wrath.

# PA Police denying entry to Greek Orthodox clergy

**HAIM SHAPIRO**  
GREEK Orthodox clergymen wishing to visit their communities in areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority have, on occasion, been stopped and turned back by the Palestinian Police, a ranking official of the Greek Orthodox Church has charged. Metropolitan Timothy, secretary of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem, said that on Sunday night he and a Greek Orthodox archbishop had been on their way to Ramallah when Palestinian policemen stopped them and told them to return to Jerusalem. "I have heard reports of similar incidents in the past, but I did not really believe them until it actually happened to me," he said. Timothy said that when they were stopped, the only identification he had was his driver's license, although the archbishop had his Greek passport. When he objected to being stopped and said that he was

expected for an appointment in Ramallah, the policemen told him to turn around and go back to Jerusalem. He said that he found the attitude especially uncalled for since the Palestinians and some Christian clergy have accused Israel of not allowing Christians to come to Jerusalem to fulfill their religious duties. *Jon Immanuel adds:* Ramallah police said that they stopped Metropolitan Timothy because five minutes earlier a settler had tried to get into Ramallah with weapons and was turned over to the IDF. "We thought that he too might be a settler, as they have many ways to hide their identity," a senior police commander said. Timothy insisted on taking the name and number of the policemen who stopped him and refused to leave for 30 minutes until the commander arrived. He told him that he could not have the details and turned him back.

# Kiryat Arba man dies in crash

**EDWARD FRIEDMAN**, 35, of Kiryat Arba was killed yesterday when the car he was riding in overturned near Hebron. The driver of the car, who was seriously injured, apparently lost control on a curve. Police suspect the driver was intoxicated. *Tim*

# High Court asked to admit 2 US Jews

**SHELLY Benvenisti**, a journalist from Miami, and **Hillel Bluestein**, an accountant from Philadelphia, both barred from entering Israel because of alleged ties to the outlawed Kach and Kahane Hai groups, have petitioned the High Court of Justice to let them in. They deny any connection with either organization. *Tim*

With great sorrow we announce the passing of **MALKA AXELROD**  
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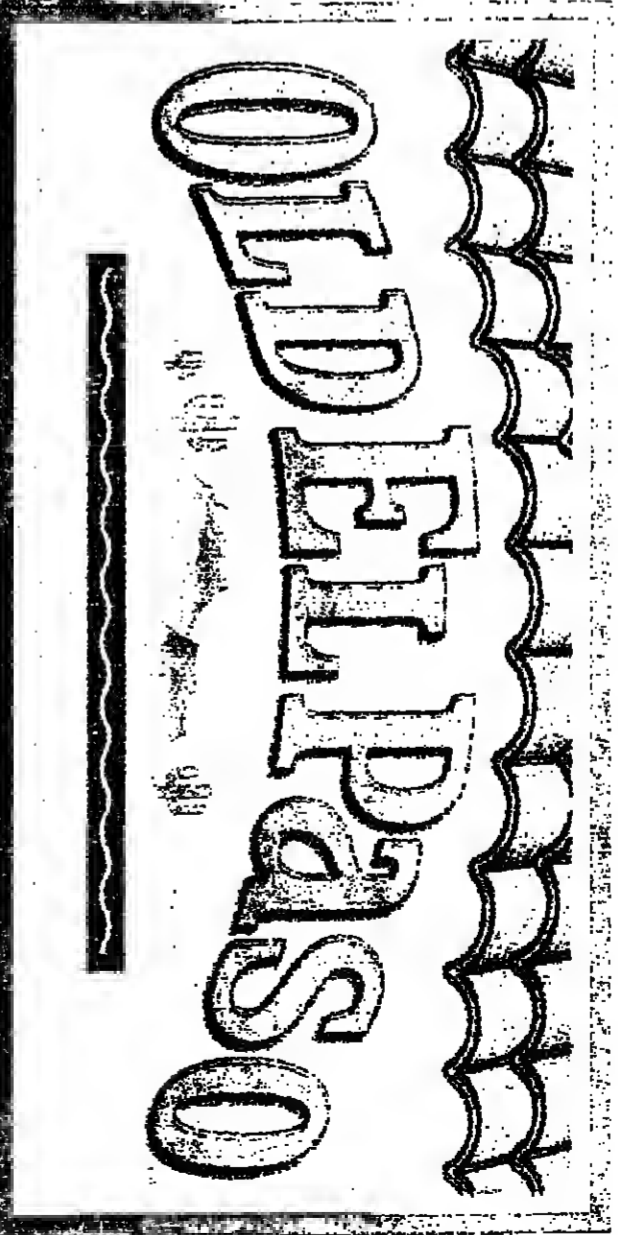
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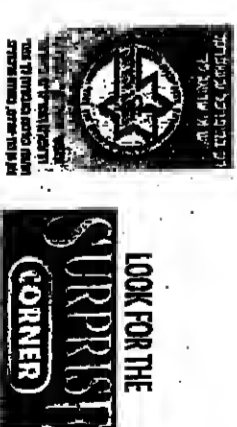
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# Deri: NIS 50,000 bookcase not paid for by bribe

MK ARYEH Deri, testifying for the second day in his defense on charges of bribe-taking, fraud, breach of trust, and falsifying corporate documents, denied that a London trip paid for by co-defendants Moshe Weinberg and Yom Tov Rubin was a bribe. He also claimed that an expensive bookcase was not paid for with bribe money.

According to the indictment, Deri received more than \$150,000 from Rubin and Moshe and Arye Weinberg between 1985 and 1990, in exchange for using his influence at the Interior

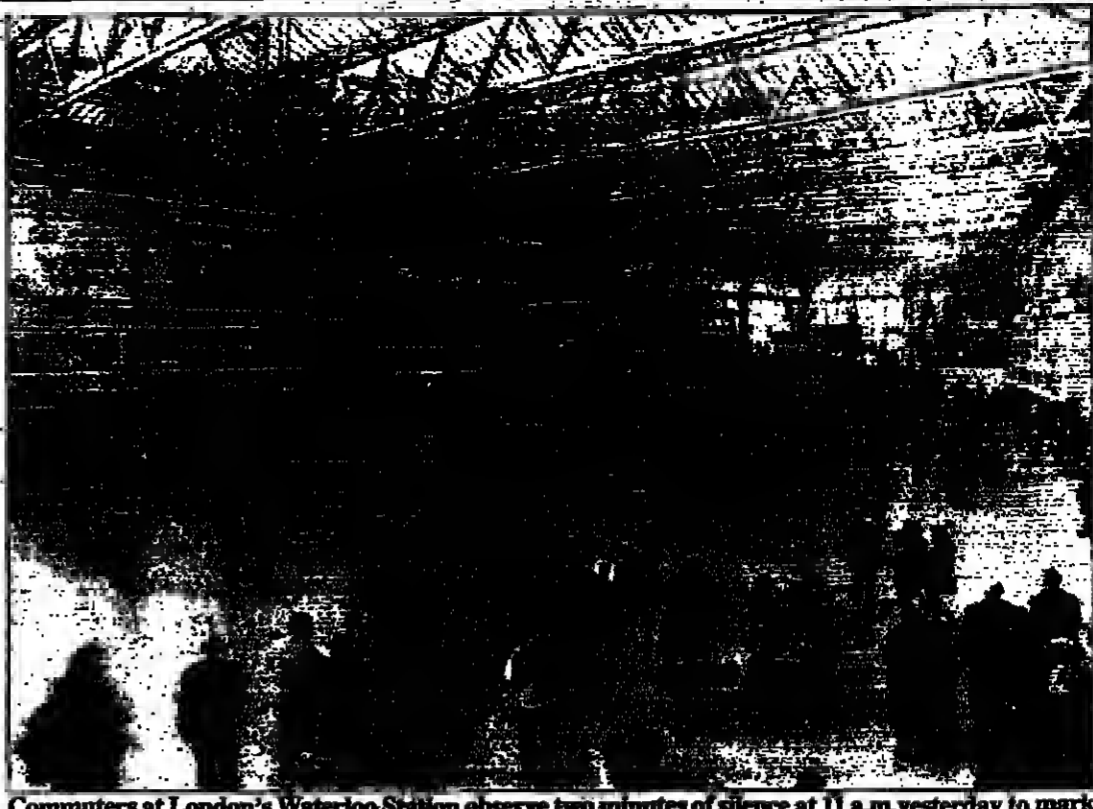
Ministry to help various associations in which the four were involved.

Deri told the Jerusalem District Court that a deposit of NIS 50,000 made to his account by Rubin was not a bribe, but the return of funds he had deposited with Rubin.

"I ask the court to be logical," Deri testified. "They accuse me of taking a bribe - I hope they're not accusing me of being stupid or negligent. I wouldn't ask my personal assistant to deposit such a sum in my account and sign for

it. If this were a bribe, I would have taken it in cash and asked someone else to do it, and not straightforwardly."

Deri claimed that at the time of the money transfer he had just moved into a new apartment in Jerusalem's Har Nof neighborhood, where he had hired a carpenter to build a bookcase. He said he had given the carpenter a post-dated check for NIS 50,000, and had asked Rubin to deposit this sum in his account to cover it. (Itin)



Computers at London's Waterloo Station observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. yesterday to mark Armistice Day. It is the first time the event has been observed on a work day since the 1930s. (Reuters)

## Norway probes wartime loss of Jewish property

LIAT COLLINS

NORWAY is making every effort to discover what happened to the property of Norwegian Jews during World War II, Ambassador Sven Erik Svedman told the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee yesterday.

He said a state commission is investigating. The property is estimated to be worth \$80 million.

Between November 1942 and February 1943, some 800 Norwegian Jews were transported to concentration camps and their possessions were confiscated by the Quisling government. Documents recording the transfer were stored in the national archives in Oslo and are now being examined by the com-

mission, which is discussing how to compensate survivors, their heirs, and the local Jewish community.

"As a country which fights for human rights, we feel a moral and legal obligation to the Jews," Svedman said. He said the commission will be done by March.

He could not explain why the government and the Jewish community had waited 50 years to act, but said all relevant material still exists.

Avi Becker, head of the World Jewish Congress's Jerusalem office, said he hopes the commission's conclusions provide adequate compensation to survivors. He said he has been very encouraged by the Norwegian government position.

## Labor to fight social welfare cuts

LIAT COLLINS

THE Labor faction yesterday accused the government of producing a budget that would harm the weaker sectors of the population.

According to figures presented by former finance minister Avraham Shohat at a Knesset faction meeting, two thirds of the proposed cuts to the budget and special arrangements law affect social welfare funding.

The faction is opposed to changes in several budget clauses, including the Capital Investment Encouragement Law; the health budget; child allowances; benefits to demobilized soldiers; and privileges to senior citizens.

"The Labor faction will focus its fight on the destructive policies which will harm the weak, increase poverty and in particular harm those in peripheral areas," Shohat said. He said the faction would coordinate with other opposition MKs to fight the budget.

Shohat singled out for criticism the decision to abolish the parallel tax (mas makbil) under which employers match workers' contributions to health care. Shohat, like MK Tamar Gozansky (Hadasb) who first raised the issue, claims it will mean funds will no longer be earmarked specifically for health.

## Hope fades for missing fishermen in India cyclone

DEV VARAN HYDERABAD, India

HOPES are fading fast for more than 1,300 fishermen missing for five days after a deadly cyclone devastated India's southeast coast, the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh state said yesterday.

If fears prove correct, nearly 2,000 people are likely to have been killed by the onslaught of rains, 180 kmp winds and three-meter tidal waves, officials said.

"Their fate is not known. All of them could be dead," Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu told a press briefing, referring to the missing fishermen.

"Helicopters which flew over the Bay of Bengal could not locate them," he said. "The coastguard is searching for bodies."

Hundreds of corpses have already washed ashore.

Many fishermen set sail from tiny hamlets dotting Andhra Pradesh's flat coastline only hours before the cyclone hit.

The more southerly Krishna district had been put on full cyclone alert, according to reports, but meteorologists say the cyclone changed tack in the last couple of hours and zeroed-in on the Godavari delta area.

Local fishing leaders disputed official statements that cyclone warnings were issued 24 hours ahead of the storm.

"The No. 10 warning, indicating a severe cyclone, was sounded only hours before the storm hit the coast, by which time the fisher-

men had already been out at sea," said one fishing leader, Malladi Swamy.

Officials said some villages in the Amalapuram area, where an estimated 100,000 people lived, were still inaccessible.

But Andhra Pradesh government spokesman B.P. Acharya said he did not expect the overall death toll to rise above 2,000. "It will be around 2,000 maximum," he told Reuters.

Tidal waves whipped up by the storm swept five km inland, destroying houses, livestock and crops.

Many people were also killed by fierce winds which tore apart their flimsy houses and hurled uprooted coconut tree trunks through roofs.

### KNESSET BRIEFS

#### MKs try to help Rwanda, Zaire refugees

MK Avraham Yehzekel (Labor) has asked his fellow MKs and Knesset employees to donate funds via UNICEF's local office to help refugees in Rwanda and Zaire. "As elected leaders we must provide an example to the rest of the public and listen to the suffering of these children," Yehzekel said.

MK David Re'em (Likud) has also initiated a campaign to help the refugees.

#### Greens launch Knesset caucus

The Knesset's Green caucus was inaugurated in a short ceremony at Beit Hanassi yesterday with President Ezer Weizman. The caucus, officially called the Forum of MKs for the Quality of Life and Environment, but better known as the Green caucus, is one of the biggest in the Knesset, with 32 members from across the political spectrum. It is chaired by Avraham Hershchson (Likud) and is to work closely with Life and Environment, the umbrella organization of all green groups in the country.

#### Bill to help AIDS victims

MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) filed a private members bill yesterday aimed at improving the quality of life of AIDS victims. The bill demands that medical centers including hospitals and health funds provide the same facilities to AIDS patients they provide all other patients; prevents schools from barring infected students and stops employers from firing workers because they have AIDS.

#### MK seeks to check Amir's accommodations

Labor faction chairman Ra'anah Cohen is demanding Internal Security Minister Avidor Kahlani allow him to visit Yigal Amir and inspect his prison conditions. Cohen filed the request after reports that Yitzhak Rabin's assassin is allowed a catering service, Walkman, and library. The Prisons Service is also reportedly considering allowing Amir to have a personal computer in his cell. "I'm surprised they haven't considered providing a jacuzzi, stereo system, and video," Cohen said.

#### Yael Dayan reschedules Wall visit

MK Yael Dayan (Labor) agreed yesterday to postpone by one day her planned visit to the Western Wall with the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women. Dayan said she would visit tomorrow instead of today, Rosh Hodesh, when there will be fewer worshippers and the tour will be considered less provocative. *Liav Collins*

## Cleveland, Michigan buried in early snow; more expected

CLEVELAND (AP) - Winter came early to the Great Lakes states, burying the region in up to two feet (60 centimeters) of snow, cutting electricity to thousands and causing a jet to skid off a slippery runway.

One traffic death in central Ohio was blamed on the weekend storm that dumped 14 inches (35 centimeters) of snow in Cleveland and Erie, Pennsylvania, and up to 22 inches (60 centimeters) in Michigan's Upper Peninsula Sunday. Early yesterday, 18 inches (45 centimeters) of snow had fallen near Kalamazoo, Michigan.

"It's unusual," said National Weather Service meteorologist Don Miller. "Here in Cleveland we average in November an average of 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) for the whole month."

The snow was expected to keep coming down at about an inch (2.5 centimeters) an hour, dumping up to 20 inches (50 centimeters) more in Ohio and up to 20 inches (50 centimeters) in western Pennsylvania. Snow was expected as far south as Virginia and Indiana by tonight.

American Airlines Flight 544 slid about 45 meters off the runway and got stuck in mud at Hopkins International Airport in Cleveland on Sunday night. None of the 115 passengers and six crew members aboard was hurt.

"The first thing I could see when we were coming down was it was snowing really bad," said passenger Lisa Palkovic, 17. "Then I saw the runway and I noticed it wasn't plowed. The next thing I knew we were sliding. I said to my dad, 'Man, we're not stopping.'"

Runways were not the only slippery surfaces in the region. Dozens of cars skidded off snow-slicked roads.

"Bad is not the word," police dispatcher Celeste Corbissero said of the Cleveland-area roads. "They're telling everyone to stay off the roads. Of course, they're not."

Up to 180,000 customers in Cleveland lost electricity Sunday after the heavy, wet snow downed power lines. Some 70,000 customers got power back by afternoon, but utilities said some homes may be without power for two days.

## Berlin criticized for halting Holocaust museum

BERLIN (Reuters) - International Jewish leaders joined German Jewish community representatives yesterday to criticize Berlin's city parliament for deciding to suspend funding for a new museum about the Nazi terror.

Ignatz Bubis, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and chairman of an international board advising the museum's developers, said Berlin had betrayed Jews by trying to delay construction work until 2000.

"The Berlin city parliament has broken its word," Bubis told reporters in a tent on the museum's building site. "Delayed in this case is the same as cancelled."

Since the city's decision to postpone the project, Berlin mayor Eberhard Diepgen has received a flood of letters and calls from foreign Jewish organizations calling for funding to be reinstated.

"The suspension of this project sends the wrong message at the wrong time to the wrong people," leaders of the Simon Wiesenthal Center wrote in a letter to the Berlin mayor. "We urge the immediate re-establishment of this project, fully funded, so that every young German and millions of visitors to Berlin will continue to learn the appropriate lessons from that brutal era," the letter continued.

## Polls confirm Jews loyal Democrats

LOS ANGELES - Exit polls taken at last week's election are unanimous that American Jews overwhelmingly reaffirmed their loyalty to the Democratic party. However, to what extent Jews retain their traditional liberal stance on social issues depends on which poll you read and how you interpret the statistics.

There was general agreement on broad trends in the Jewish voting patterns, but fluctuations existed in the numbers and percentages between polls conducted by national newspapers on the one hand, and the American Jewish Congress on the other.

In the polls conducted by leading news organizations, the Los Angeles Times, which checked out 100 precincts across the country, reported Jews voting 79% for President Clinton (compared to 49% for the total electorate), 15% for Bob Dole (vs. 41%), and 4% for Ross Perot (9%).

In congressional races for the House of Representatives, in which Democrats and Republicans split about 50-50 in the overall popular vote, the New York Times reported that Jews voted 74% for Democratic candidates and 26% for Republicans. *Tom Tugend*

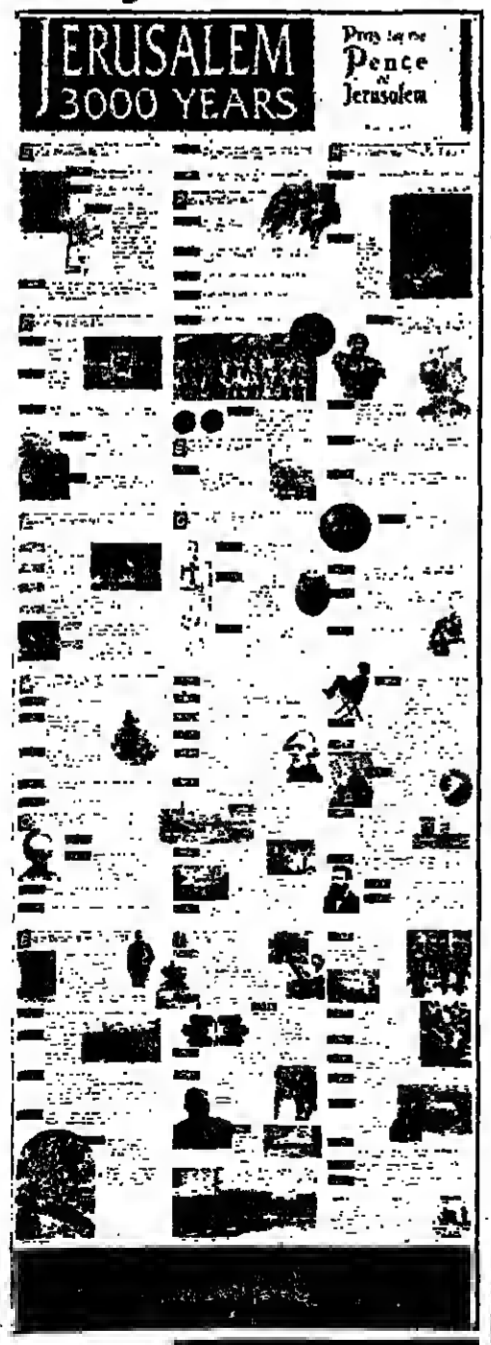
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Business, not politics

THE Cairo Economic Conference, which starts today, has already failed at what should have been its primary objective: signaling to the world that the Middle East is open for business.

their counterparts from Egypt, Jordan, and the Gulf remain interested in building ties with Israel. These businesspeople know that working relationships cannot be built overnight, and that even if projects might be discouraged at the political level over the short term, eventually their time will come.



Insult & injury

LAST week a popular men's club in my Connecticut hometown invited a former Nazi officer to come talk to them about his "wartime experiences."

Equal rights for all

THE intense negotiations on implementing the redeployment agreement in Hebron have exposed the failure of both Palestinians and Israelis to think in a strategic and long-term way.

DAOUD KUTTAB and hard about the future of their relations with Palestinians. Are they willing to accept living under the laws of the future Palestinian entity, whether it be a state of confederation with Jordan or any other form of rule?

because the police would be part of a joint police force and not simply joint patrols. In South Africa, where apartheid dug deep roots for so many years, the country's blacks and whites are making huge progress toward integration and equality.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FALSE ASSUMPTION Sir, - The world of today is beset by false assumptions and wrongful accusations, and many of us look to both Judaism and Christianity to teach us truth.

MEDICAL CARE IN ISRAEL Sir, - Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports "There's no place for medical paternalism," October 27

DROP IN TOURISM Sir, - The article "Tourism fell 8 percent between March and September" (October 31)

A redesigning of Oslo

THE American people have chosen Clinton over Dole, opting for continuation. Israelis chose Netanyahu over Peres, opting for change.

YOSSI BEN-AHARON the Oslo accords they risk condemnation by Washington and the international community.

violence, which triggered the last round of clashes. Accumulating experience of the Palestinian performance regarding agreements leaves very little room for optimism.

CONVOLUTED REASONING Sir, - In a magnificent tour de force of convoluted reasoning, Yossi Beilin proved that the PLO is not obligated to change its covenant as it has three premises (October 31).

shoot at our soldiers? Or destroy our holy places? Or refuse to return killers of our civilians? Or keep any of the obligations they undertook in exchange for real concessions?

Washington and Jerusalem reach a deep understanding and accord. WHAT IT entails is a redesigning of the Oslo agreements as they are implemented, extirpating the dangerous, unacceptable elements in them.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, November 12, 1996

Leviev sees active role at Africa-Israel

AFRICA-ISRAEL's new owner, Lev Leviev, said yesterday he intends to serve as the company's active chairman.

Trade deficit breaks \$9b. barrier in first 10 months

ISRAEL'S trade deficit expanded in October by \$900 million, reaching a total \$9.1 billion since the beginning of the year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Jerusalem Post Staff

The CBS noted October's figures show that imports of durable goods and raw materials were stable in comparison to recent months, while imports of machines and other equipment intended for investment rose by a monthly average of 0.33%, or 4% on an annual basis.

and budget deficits, have posed the Rabin, Peres and Netanyahu governments a major challenge since 1993, when the previous year's current-account surplus turned into a rapidly ballooning deficit.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cable & Wireless head to visit for talks on new Bezeq share offering: Richard Brown, the new managing director of Britain's Cable & Wireless - which owns a significant chunk of Bezeq - will arrive at the end of the month to try to reach agreement with the Communications Ministry on the details of a new Bezeq stock issue next year.

IFTRIC approves two Ukraine deals: The Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Company (IFTRIC) has insured two export transactions to Ukraine at a total value of \$5 million. The company emphasized this is the first time a transaction of this kind has been approved.

City taxes set to rise: Municipal taxes (arona) will go up by between 11.4% and 16.4% in 1997, the Knesset Finance Committee decided yesterday. The 11.4% increase compensates cities for inflation between September 1995 and September 1996.

Teva profits up 21.5% in the third-quarter

TEVA Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. yesterday announced a 21.5% increase in third-quarter net income to \$23.9 million, compared to \$19.6m. in the corresponding period last year.

COMPANY RESULTS

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

During the third quarter, Teva received an approval letter from the US Food and Drug Administration for Copaxone. Teva's innovative treatment for multiple sclerosis. This set the stage to complete the remaining steps to gain final FDA approval to market the drug, the company's first innovative product, in America.

lion-dollar company. Teva develops, manufactures, and markets human pharmaceuticals, bulk pharmaceutical chemicals, medical disposables, veterinary and fermentation products. The company has manufacturing facilities in Israel, Western Europe, and the US and generates more than 70% of its sales outside of Israel.

Knesset approves water price hike for farmers

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee approved a 9.7% increase in water prices for farmers yesterday, although the coalition had strenuously opposed the increase only two months ago.

The rate hike will enable the Treasury to save NIS 60 million a year. It was approved by an 8-7 vote, which divided along party lines.

Though NIS 60 million is not significant on the scale of the NIS 49 billion in budget cuts planned for 1997, Finance Minister Dan Meridor had attached considerable importance to the vote as an indicator of how the coalition could be expected to behave with respect to the 1997 budget cuts.

Rafael workers angry at decision to make it a state company

RAFAEL employees reacted angrily yesterday to the government's decision to convert the Defense Ministry unit into a state company.

STEVE RODAN

Defense Ministry will contribute NIS 1 billion of the NIS 4.8b. required for the move. Rafael executives said the government decision reflected their lobbying to leave the Defense Ministry. The next step is for the government to negotiate with Rafael workers, a process expected to take at least several months.

he said. Zuckman said Rafael has amassed orders of \$3.3 billion for 1997, twice as much as during the current year. He added that converting Rafael to a government company would cost billions of shekels, with more than a NIS 1b. just for the payment of pensions and severance.

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Lebanese economy grew 75% since 1990

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Lebanon has made a remarkable recovery since the end of the 1975-90 civil war and real gross domestic product (GDP) has risen 75 percent since 1990, a World Bank report said.

Fuod (IMF) meeting in Washington. "Growth has averaged 7.2% from 1993 to 1995 as the economy stabilized and the reconstruction program took off. The recovery has brought per capita incomes from less than \$1,000 in 1990 to an estimated \$2,700 in 1995," it said.

had risen from 6.5% of GDP in 1990 to 17% in 1995 and non-interest current expenditures had been contained.

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Insurers appoint complaints officers

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

INSURANCE firms have each assigned a senior manager with the duty of treating customers' complaints, at the request of supervisor of insurance Doron Shorrer and the Insurance Companies Association.

start to apply some of the recommendations included in Dr. Avi Ben-Zukerman's report on the role of the insurance agent. Zuckerman, a former supervisor of insurance, completed the report at the end of 1992, but its proposals have not yet been implemented.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns for Currency, 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes sub-table for Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates.

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Shares rise as Teva posts earnings gain

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



Two-Sided Index Maof Index

SHARES rose as Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., which accounts for nearly 10 percent of the Maof index, climbing 3.75% on a better-than-expected third-quarter earnings report. Investors are expecting Friday's consumer price index report will meet estimates of a rise of around 1%...

New Wall St. peak boosts weak European bourses. LONDON (Reuters) - Wall Street surged to an intra-day trading record yesterday, giving an end-of-the-day boost to European bourses which had been in the doldrums because of interest rates uncertainties.

Dow index extends record run. WALL STREET REPORT. NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks racked up their fourth record close in a row yesterday as Wall Street bet that interest rates will continue to fall, making stocks even more attractive to the investing public.

HEBRON. (Continued from Page 1) US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last night. "We know that America honors agreements," said Arafat's adviser Dr. Ahmed Tibi. "We will ask Christopher to pressure Israel not to try and reopen the agreement."

EDRI. (Continued from Page 1) accept the position that as long as there's no other evidence, Sharon Edri is being held against his will. "We will do everything to trace him and return him to his family. [The investigation] is difficult and complex and we don't have any precise details but we are working [on it] all the time," Mordchai added.

CAIRO. (Continued from Page 1) business delegates that Cairo will provide a useful forum for improving ties with their counterparts in the Middle East and further afield. Many of those who attended this week's Jerusalem Business Conference said they expect a friendly welcome from most of the Egyptian business community. This view is shared by senior Israeli economic officials.

TEL AVIV STOCKS. Multi-sided trading. Two-sided trading. AFTERNOON. MORNING. Includes tables for Commercial Banks, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, Property, Building & Agriculture, and Oil Exploration.

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INTEL MONEY MARKETS. Dollar crossrates (US). Labor rates. Includes exchange rates for Pound, Dollar, and Yen, and interest rates for various terms.

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